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NOV 88

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# BABYLON

BASED ON THE  
GROUND-BREAKING  
WARNER BROS.  
TELEVISION SERIES

APPROVED  
COMICS  
CODE  
60



OBI

**DEADLY  
REFUGE!**

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NOTHING FOCUSES YOUR ATTENTION LIKE  
HAVING A STARSHIP BLOW UP IN YOUR FACE.

UNLESS IT'S HAVING THE ESCAPE  
HATCH GLAMMED IN YOUR FACE, TOO.

## LASER-MIRROR-STARWEB

### PART 2: CODA FOR HUMAN AND NARN IN B FLAT

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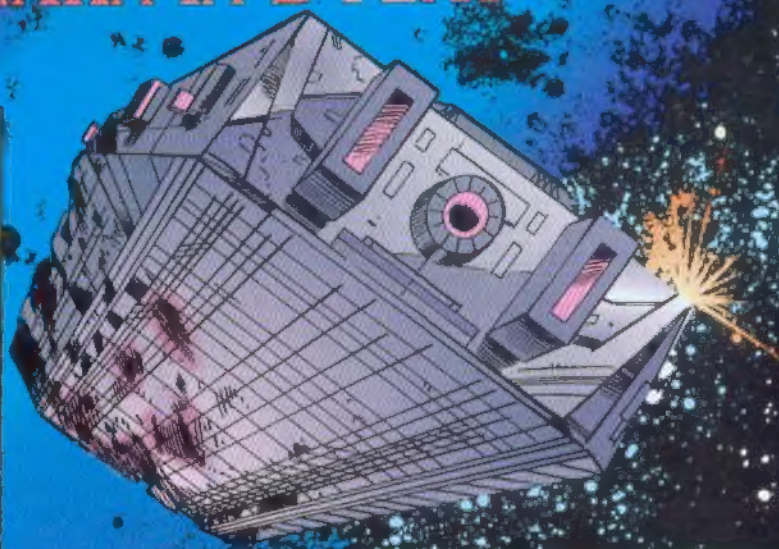
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BASED ON THE WARNER BROS.  
TELEVISION SERIES **BABYLON 5**  
CREATED BY  
J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI



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WHAT BLESSINGS,  
CAPTAIN SHERIDAN!  
YOU SURVIVED THE EX-  
PLOSION AND MADE IT  
BACK INSIDE OUR  
SHUTTLE!

NO THANKS  
TO YOU.



YOU TRIED  
TO SLAM THE  
HATCH IN  
MY FACE,  
GREGGIL!

G'KAR'S SHIP WAS  
BOOBY-TRAPPED  
AND ABOUT TO SELF-  
DESTRUCT! WE HAD  
TO GET OUT OF  
THERE!

YOU  
PANICKED!  
I HAD TO  
ACT!



YEAH,  
RIGHT!

IF ONLY THE  
EXPLOSION FROM  
G'KAR'S SHIP HADN'T  
SLAMMED US SO HARD.  
I'VE GOT TO STOP OUR  
ROTATION—



YOU SHOULD BE FURIOUS!  
AMBASSADOR G'KAR WAS  
TRYING TO KILL YOU!

ARE YOU SURE I'M  
THE INTENDED TARGET—?

WHO ELSE?

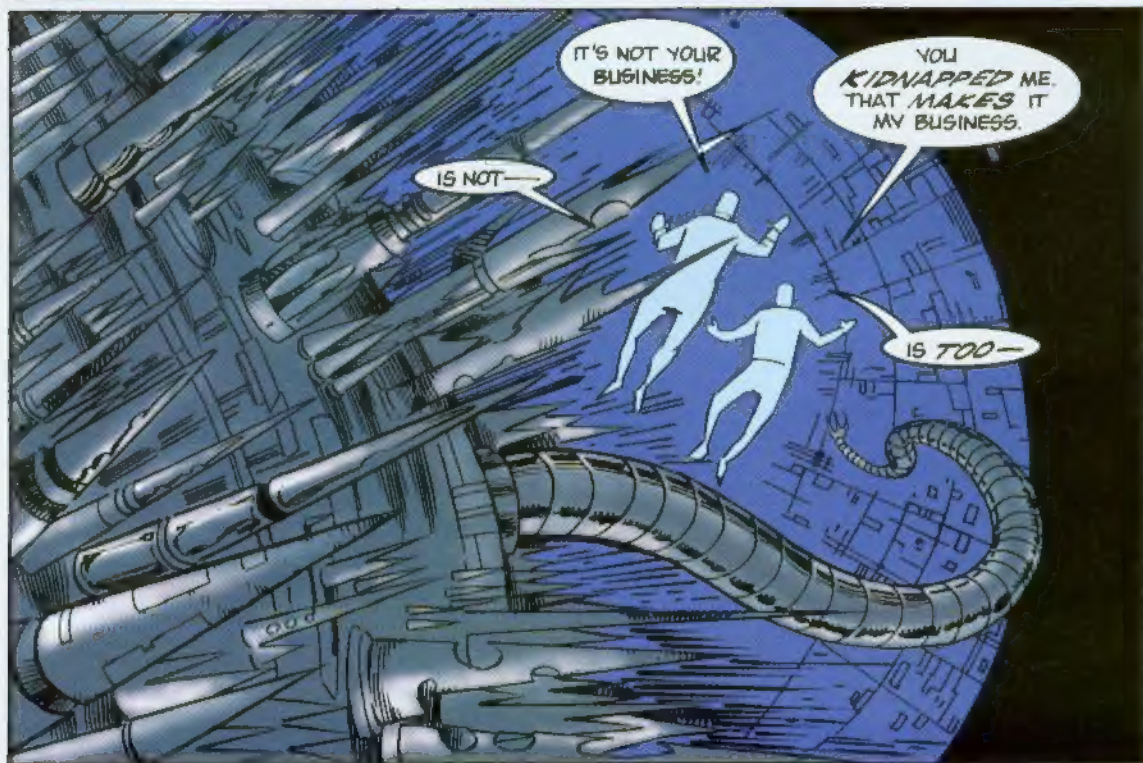


G'KAR FOOLED YOU,  
SHERIDAN. HE SENT HIS  
SHIP OUT UNMANNED. HE MUST  
BE HIDING ON BABYLON 5!  
WE MUST GO BACK!

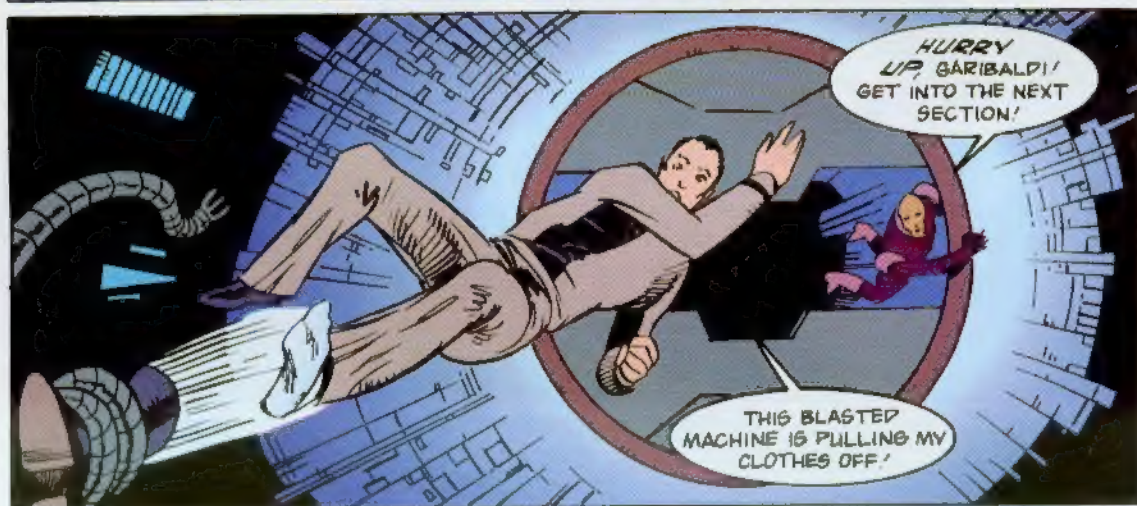
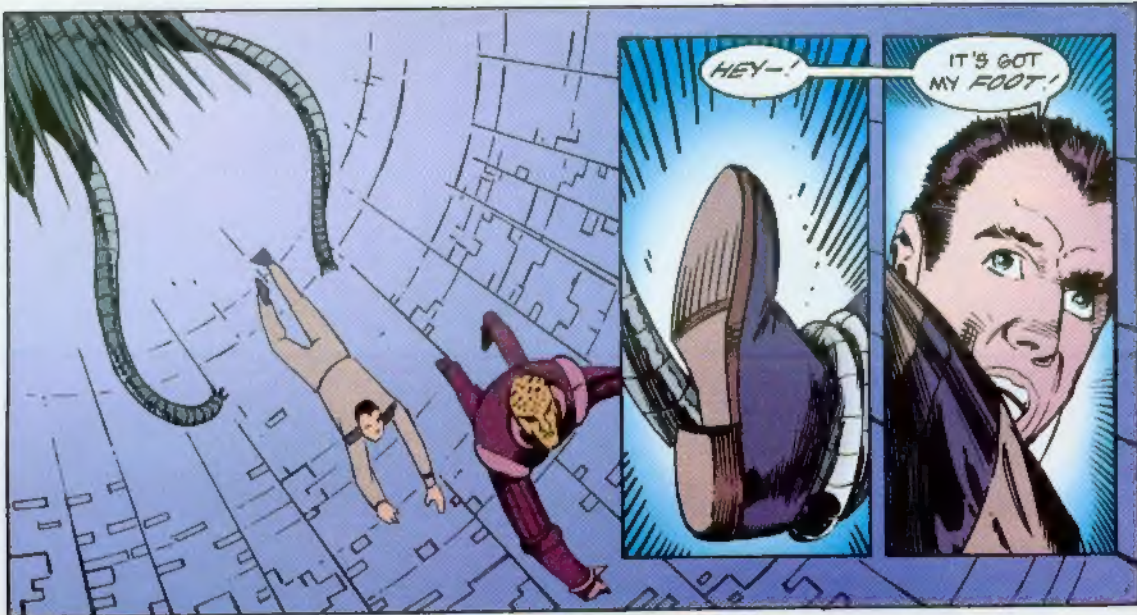


GETTING BACK WILL BE  
THE SMALLEST PART OF OUR  
PROBLEM. WE'RE IN—





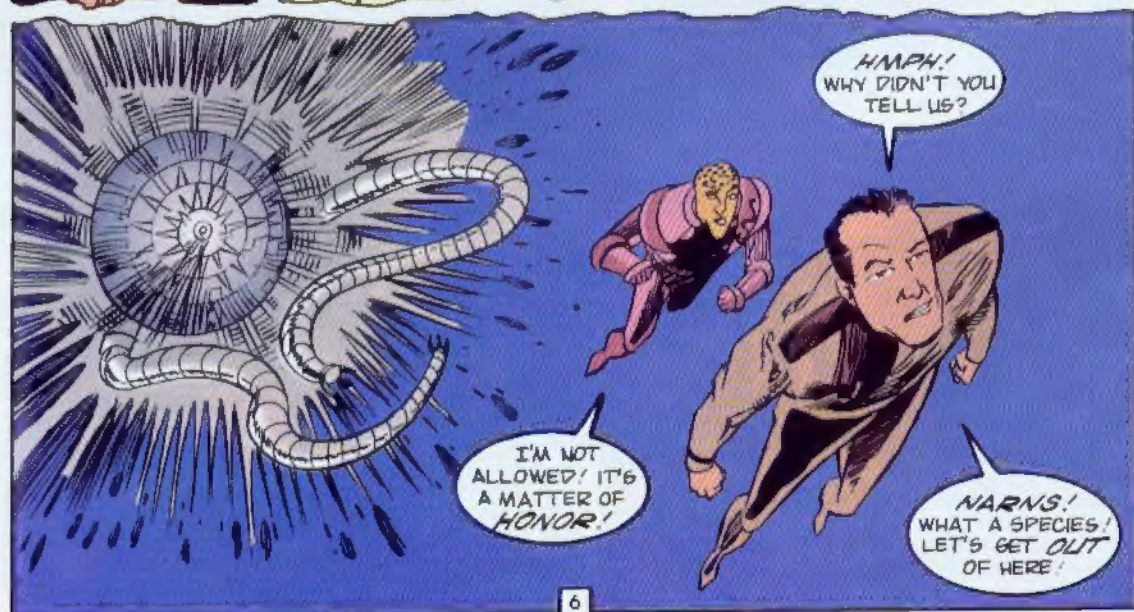
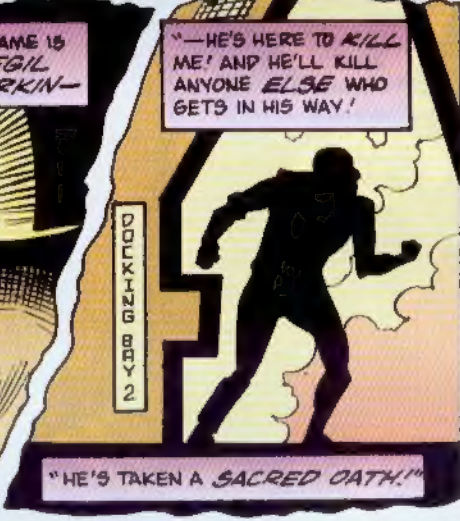
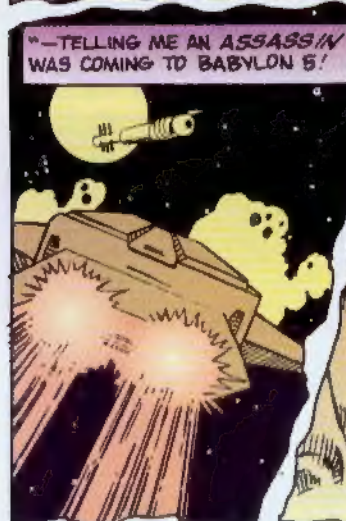






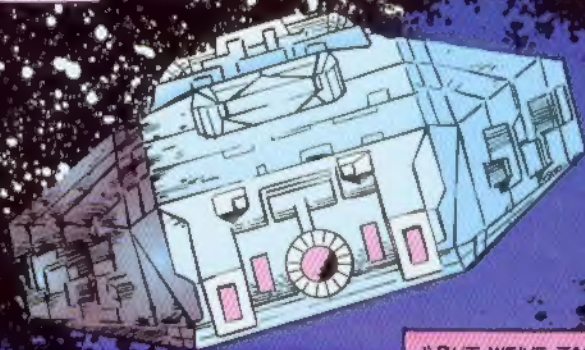








"THE SHIP IS STABILIZED—FINALLY!"



"GOOD JOB,  
CAPTAIN SHERIDAN."

"BUT WE'VE TAKEN SOME  
SERIOUS DAMAGE, GREEGL."

...INCLUDING MASSIVE  
DECALIBRATION IN THE  
EXTERNAL TRANSFIBULATOR  
PHASE CONTROLLERS...

HUH?  
WHAT DOES  
THAT  
MEAN?

...ADDITIONAL  
DAMAGE TO  
THE OXYGEN  
RECYCLERS—

WE'RE NOT  
GOING TO HAVE  
ENOUGH OXYGEN?  
WHAT'LL WE  
DO?

YOU'RE  
GOING TO SIT VERY  
STILL, GREEGL.  
DON'T TOUCH  
ANYTHING.

I'M GOING OUT-  
SIDE TO REPAIR THE  
TRANSFIBULATOR  
ANTENNAS.

BUT  
WHAT  
ABOUT OUR  
AIR?

DON'T  
WASTE IT  
TALKING.



ELSEWHERE...

IF SOMEONE'S TRYING TO ASSASSINATE YOU, WE SHOULD TELL SHERIDAN.

NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I HAVE NO COMMUNICATOR.

BESIDES, I DIDN'T WANT TO BE TRACED.

WHY COULDN'T YOU LET THE ASSASSIN KILL YOU AND SAVE US ALL A LOT OF TROUBLE?

I PROMISED MY CLAN I WOULD DIE HONORABLY.

I INTEND TO DIE IN BED. ON MY 92ND BIRTHDAY. IN THE ARMS OF A BEAUTIFUL REDHEAD. SHOT BY A JEALOUS HUSBAND.

WHY WOULD HER HUSBAND BE JEALOUS? YOU WOULD BE DOING HER A GREAT SERVICE.

LOOK! THAT THING IS COMING UP FAST! TIME TO DISCARD ANOTHER BOOT.

ONE...

...TWO...

...THREE...

ION STORM!

HAW! YOU LOSE!

HUH? WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

IT'S THE MIND OF GOD! IT HOLDS EVERYTHING! TAKE OFF YOUR BOOT, G'KAR!

YOU CHEATED!

I WON!

SAME THING!





I  
REPLACED  
THE PART!  
TEST IT.

THE SYSTEM  
ANALYSIS SCREEN SAYS...  
"CONFIDENCE IS HIGH."  
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

IT MEANS I'M  
DONE OUT HERE



OKAY, CYCLE  
THE LOCK.

I'M SORRY,  
COMMANDER, I  
CAN'T DO  
THAT.

IS THERE  
A PROBLEM,  
GREGGIL?

NOT FOR ME.



YOU'RE WORRIED  
ABOUT THE OXYGEN,  
AREN'T YOU?

THERE'S NOT ENOUGH  
FOR BOTH OF US.



YOU LOCKED  
THE MANUAL  
OVERRIDE!

I WAS  
BEING CAREFUL.

YOU CAN'T  
PILOT THE SHIP  
WITHOUT ME.

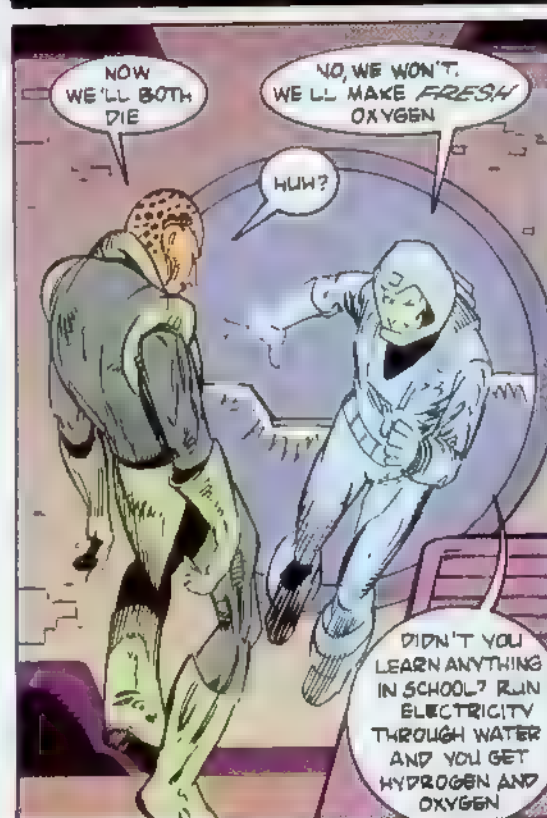
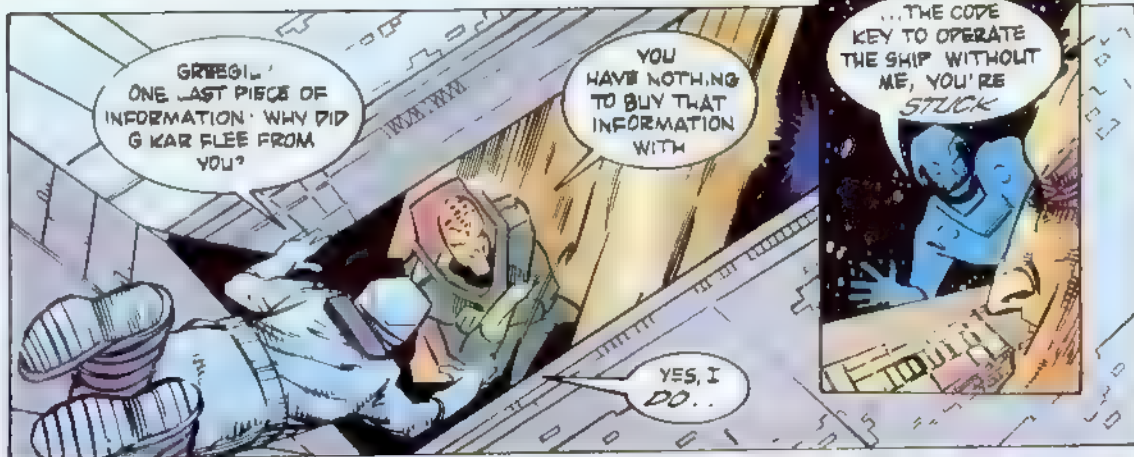
ONLY ONE OF US CAN  
GET BACK ALIVE. I'LL TELL  
THEM YOU DIED BRAVELY.



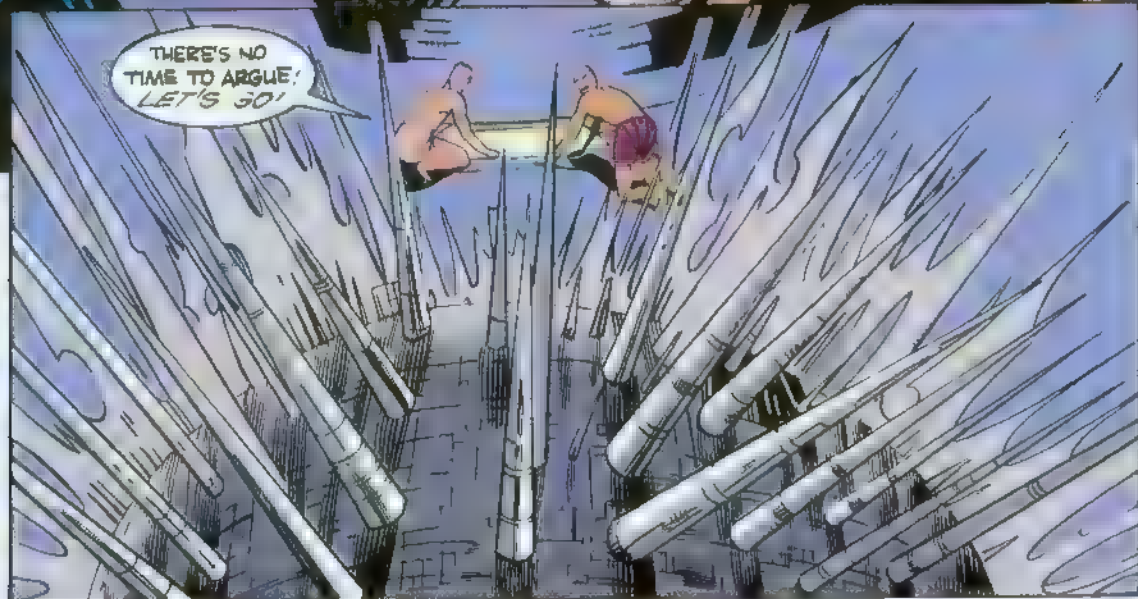
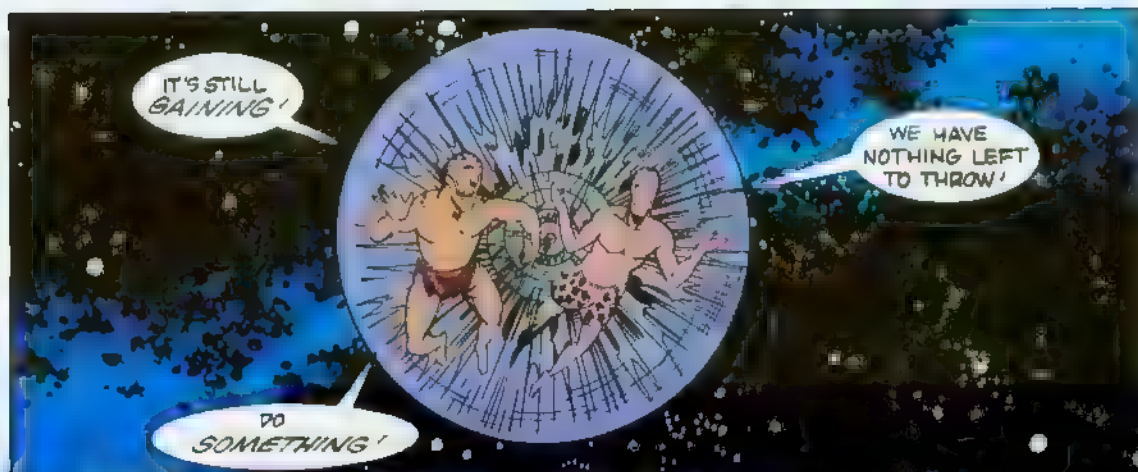
CAN WE  
TALK ABOUT  
THIS?

I  
DON'T  
SEE HOW  
IT WILL  
CHANGE  
ANYTHING.











WE  
MADE IT!

DON'T LET GO! OR  
YOU'LL START TO SPIN  
AWAY—YOU WON'T BE  
ABLE TO GET BACK!

AND  
DON'T LOOK  
DOWN—

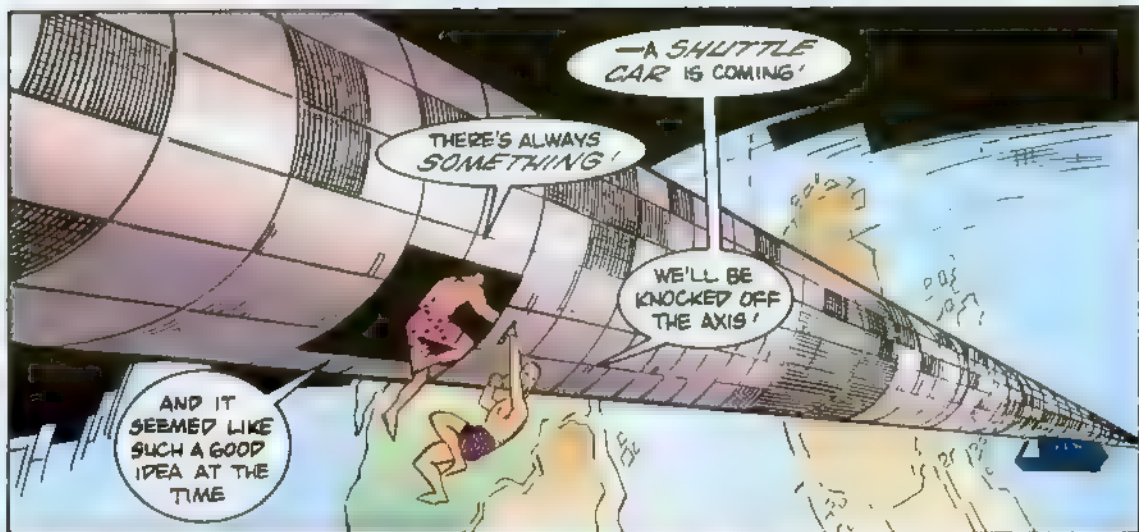
AAHUUU/GGHHH!!

I TOLD YOU THIS  
WASN'T A GOOD IDEA NEXT  
TIME YOU'LL LISTEN!

NEXT  
TIME... ?







—A SHUTTLE  
CAR IS COMING!

THERE'S ALWAYS  
SOMETHING!

WE'LL BE  
KNOCKED OFF  
THE AXIS!

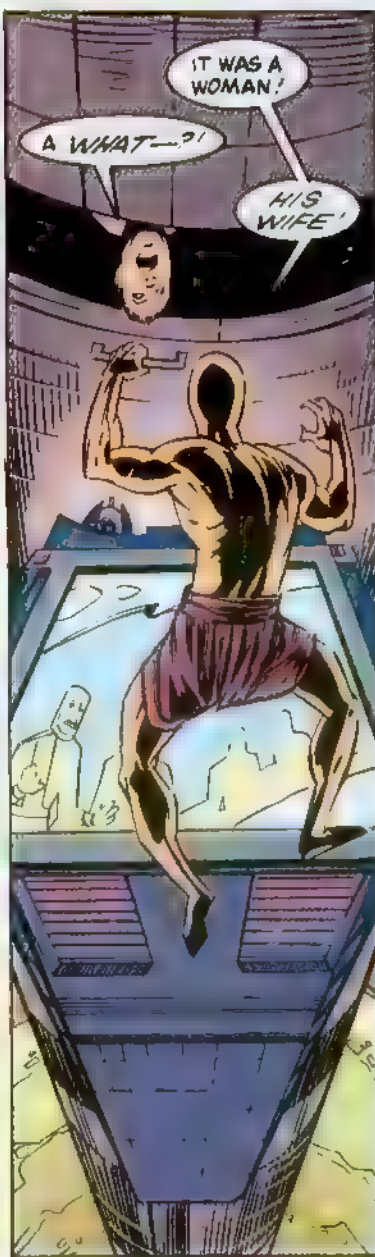
AND IT  
SEEMED LIKE  
SUCH A GOOD  
IDEA AT THE  
TIME



NOT SO  
FAST, G'KAR

I'LL BE  
KILLED—!

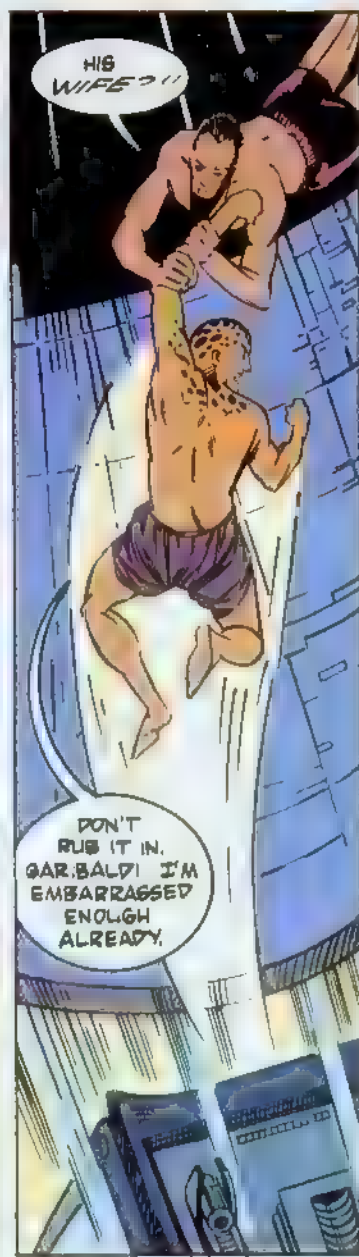
TELL ME  
WHY GREEGIL  
WANTS TO KILL YOU  
TELL ME!



IT WAS A  
WOMAN!

A WHAT—?!

HIS  
WIFE!



HIS  
WIFE?!!

DON'T  
RUB IT IN,  
GAR.BALD! I'M  
EMBARRASSED  
ENOUGH  
ALREADY.



THIS IS ALL  
BECAUSE YOU HAD SEX  
WITH HIS WIFE?!!

NO! NO! BECAUSE  
I REFUSED TO HAVE  
SEX WITH HIS WIFE

IT WAS  
A TERRIBLE  
INSULT.

UNDER  
CLAN LAW,  
GREGGIL HAS  
THE RIGHT  
TO SEEK  
VENGEANCE

YOU MEAN *ALL*  
*THIS*... I CAN'T BELIEVE  
IT I SHOULD HAVE LET  
HIM KILL YOU—

CLAN  
ALLIANCES  
ARE SEALED  
WITH THE MIXING  
OF GENETIC  
LINES

AS A HIGH-RANKING  
MEMBER OF MY OWN CLAN,  
I AM OBLIGATED TO.  
YOU KNOW

F I  
DON'T, HE  
IS OBLIGATED  
TO KILL  
ME!

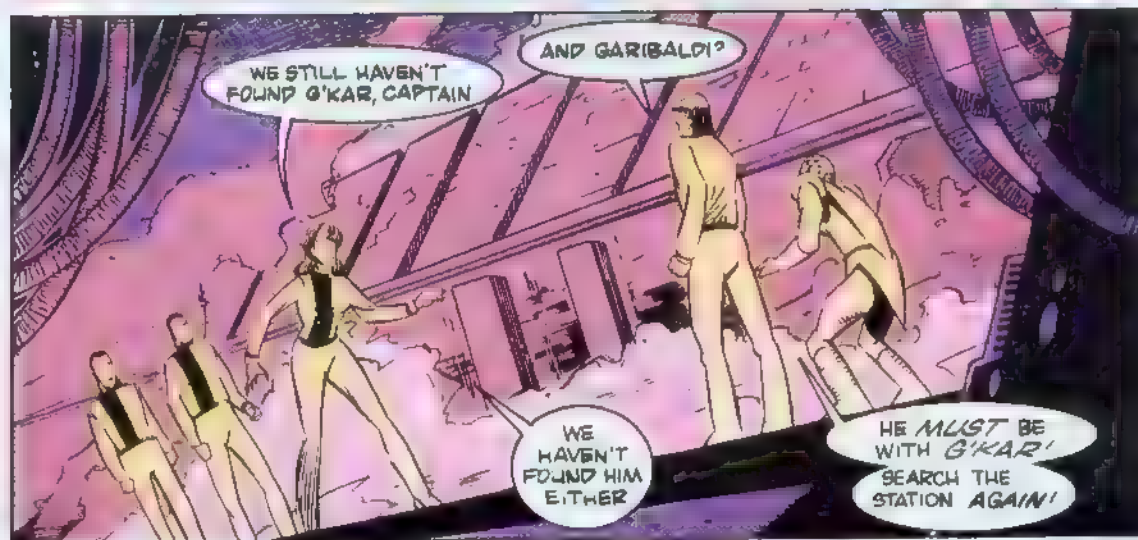
BABYLON 5  
RULES DON'T APPLY  
TO NARNS

HE CAN'T  
KILL YOU—NOT ON  
*THIS* STATION

CAPTAIN SHERIDAN  
WILL DECIDE WHAT  
RULES APPLY

I'M  
DOOMED TO  
DISGRACE.







MEANWHILE...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE, GARIBALDI?

LEAVING A TRAIL OF BREAD CRUMBS

HUH?

COME ON, G'KAR WE'RE ALMOST TO THE FAR EXIT

BUT GREGIL WANTS TO KILL ME! IS THIS MY DESTINY?

I GUESS SO TOO BAD, G'KAR I'LL MISS YOU

YOU WON'T TRY TO SAVE ME?

YOU TOLD ME BABYLON 5 RULES DON'T APPLY TO WARNS

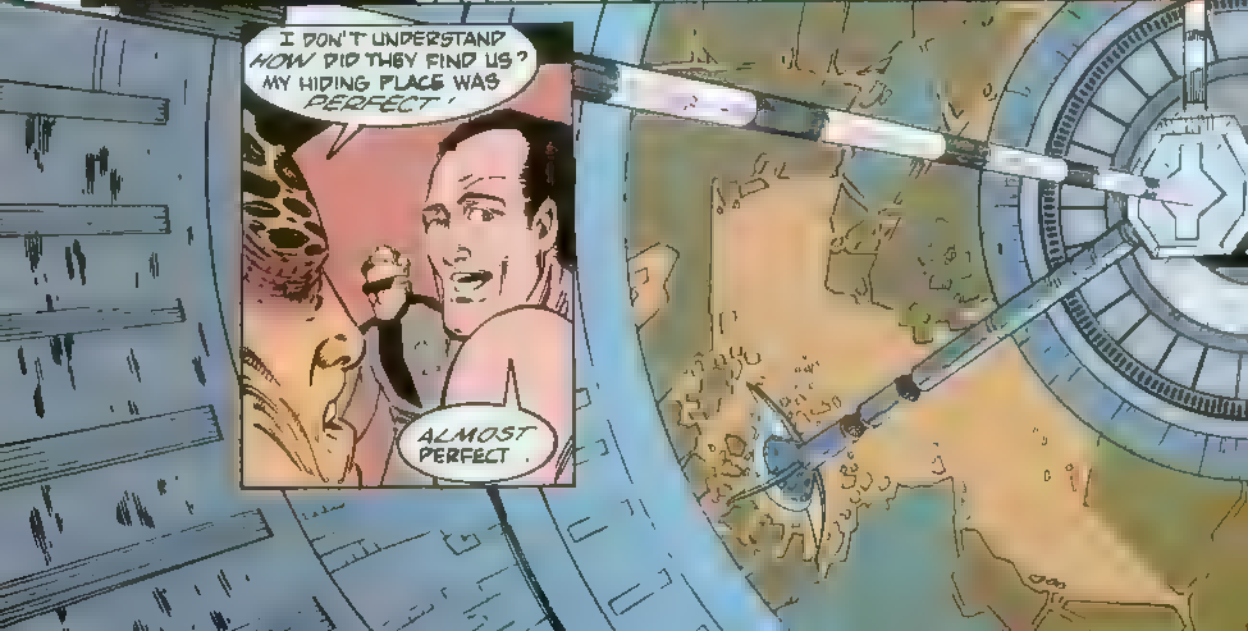
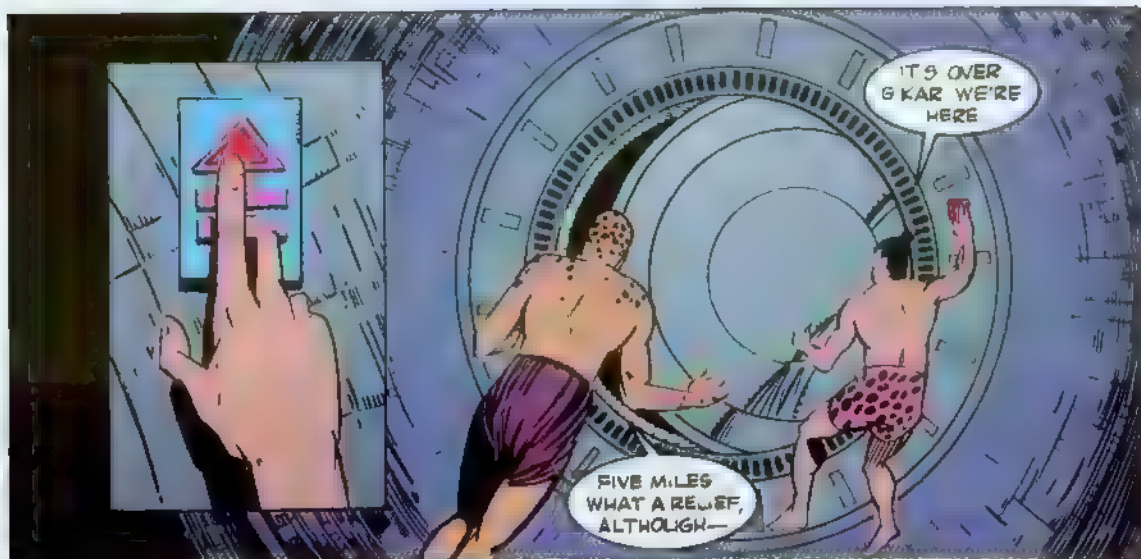
DEATH OR DISHONOR! I'M DOOMED!

CAPTAIN SHERIDAN, WE'VE COVERED MOST OF THE SECTIONS, INCLUDING THE HYDROPONIC GARDENS. SO FAR THERE'S NO SIGN OF G'KAR

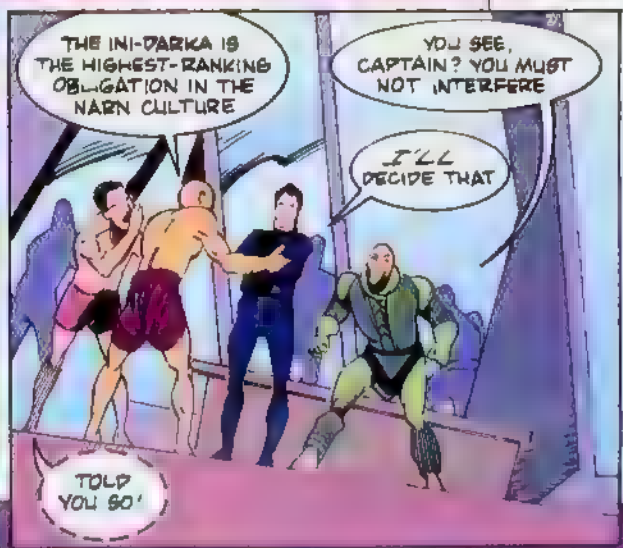
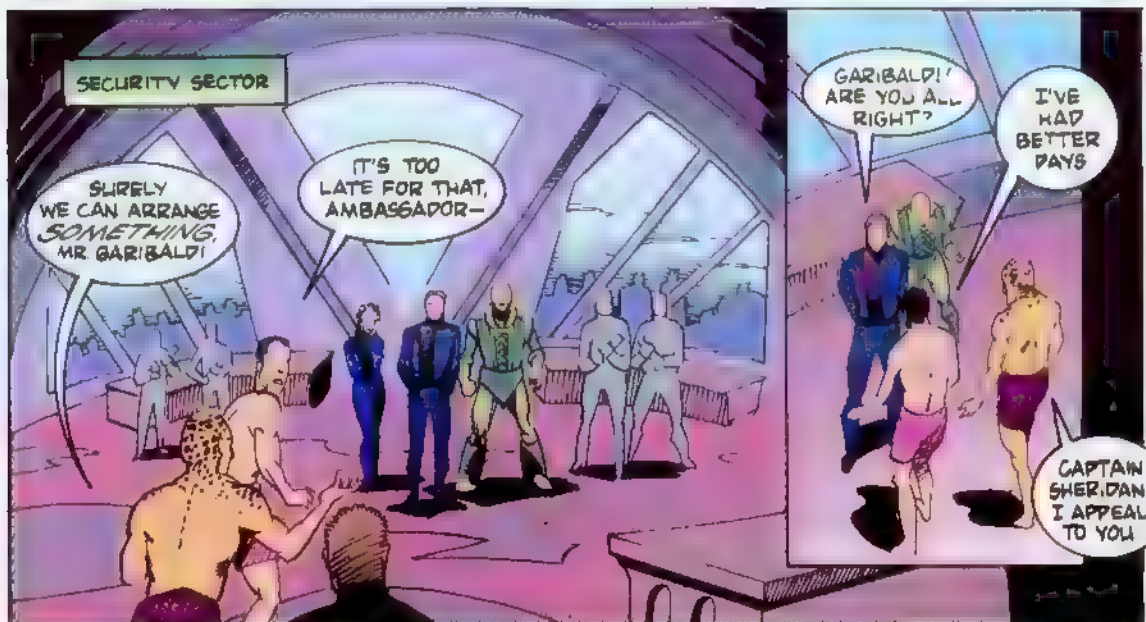
KEEP SEARCHING. HE'S GOT TO BE SOMEWHERE UNLESS...

LOOK-!











# Narn Culture and Community (continued)

Narns rank obligation according to the food chain

**This-Kini**

The Carrion Eater

**ON-KINI**

The Lone-hunter.

**VAL-KINI**

The Pack.

**DAR-KINI**

The Family

**BAS-KINI**

The Warrior

Considers  
himself  
a warrior  
who can  
kill and  
win  
without  
hesitation  
or mercy  
at all costs  
and without  
regard for  
the law

**INI-DARKA**

The Killer  
who fulfills  
an obligation.

He is a  
warrior  
who can  
kill and  
win  
without  
hesitation  
or mercy  
at all costs  
and without  
regard for  
the law



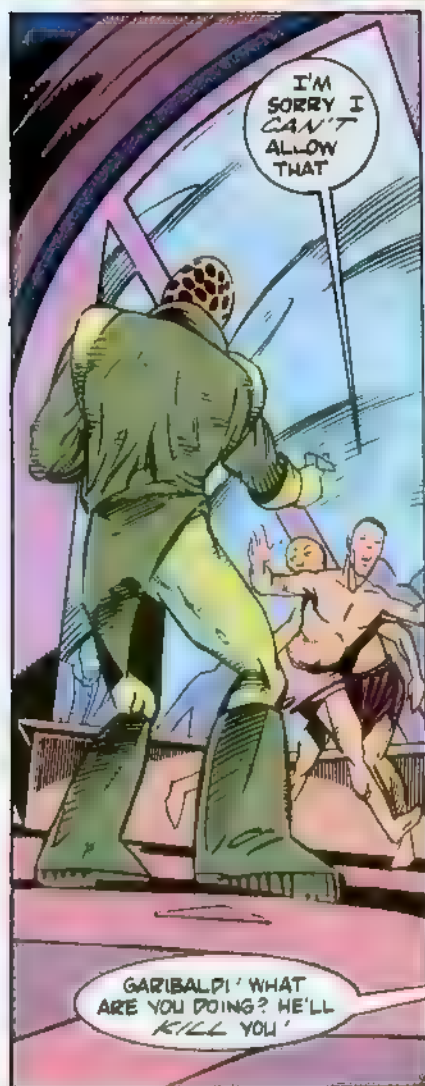


OF COURSE, THE  
LOWEST-RANKING WOULD  
BE THE *DRL-K'IN!*  
THE MAD KILLER—

THAT'S ENOUGH, G KAR!

EVERYBODY  
STAND ASIDE!

MAKE PEACE WITH  
THE ELDERS OF YOUR  
CLAN, G KAR I AM YOUR  
*INI-DARKA!*



I'M  
SORRY I  
CAN'T  
ALLOW  
THAT

GARIBALDI! WHAT  
ARE YOU DOING? HE'LL  
KILL YOU!

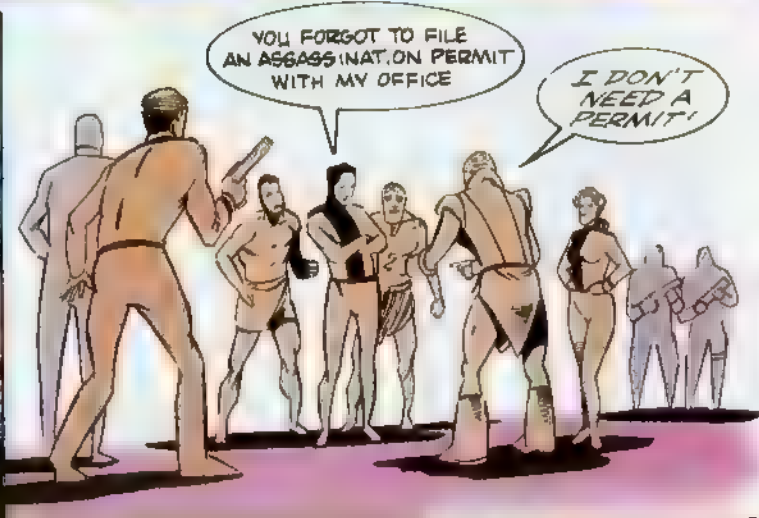
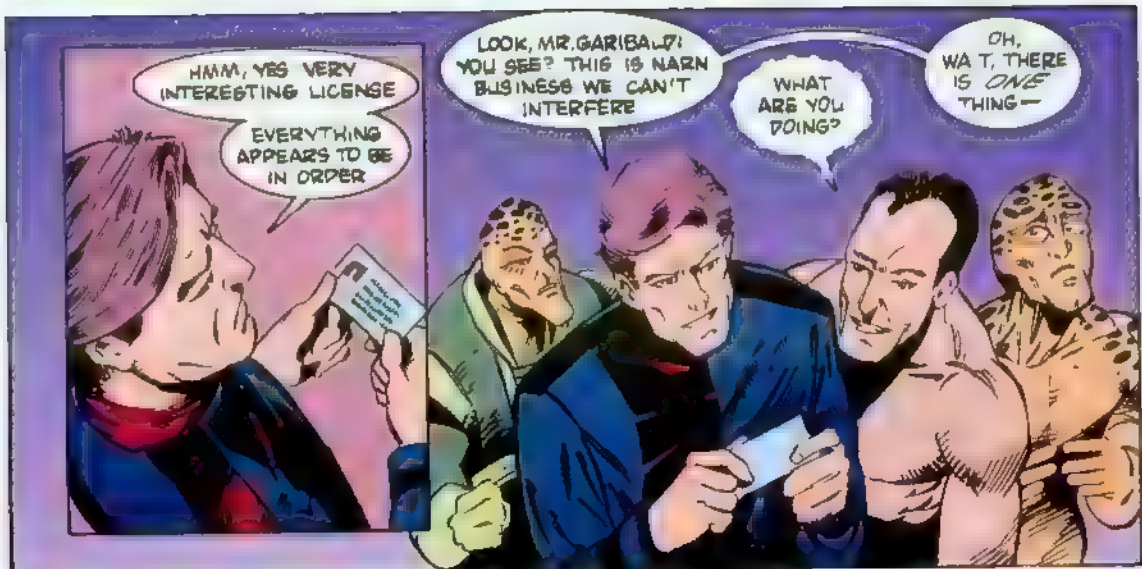


DON'T WORRY  
IT'S PERFECTLY  
LEGAL.

I HAVE A  
LICENSE SIGNED  
BY THE COUNCIL  
OF CLANS

"NOW, PLEASE STEP  
ASIDE, MR GARIBALDI!"

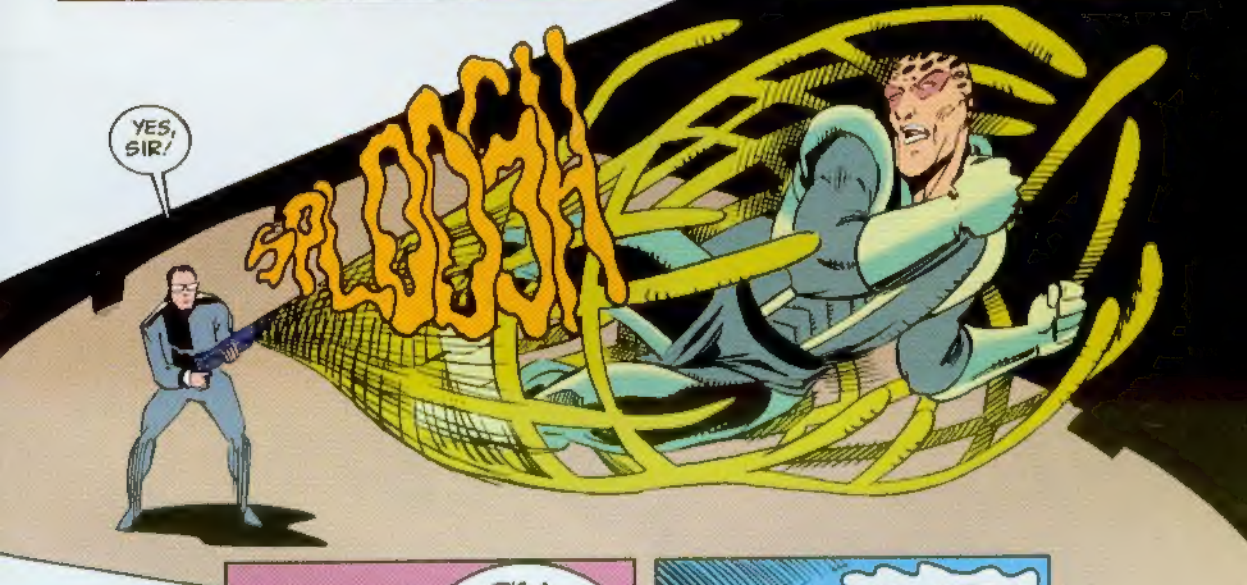












SAME THING.





YOU SEE, I COULD HAVE IMPREGNATED HIS CLAN-WIFE...

...BUT THAT WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN A CHILD BELONGING TO BOTH FAMILIES...

...AND THAT WOULD HAVE SHIFTED THE BALANCE OF POWER AMONG THE FIVE CLANS...

...WHICH COULD HAVE BROUGHT GREAT RISK TO THE STABILITY OF...



AND BESIDES, SHE WASN'T ATTRACTIVE ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY A WAR.

WE CAN'T REALLY PRESS CHARGES AGAINST THE AMBASSADOR. HE HAS DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

I KNOW. BUT WE CAN KEEP HIM BUSY WITH LAWYERS FOR A WHILE. THAT'LL BE PUNISHMENT ENOUGH.

SIR—?

MIRROR REFLECTS LASER.  
STARWEB COVERS MIRROR.  
LASER CUTS STARWEB...

BUT THE CAPTAIN STILL GETS THE LAST WORD.

END.



# B A B Y L O N

"It was the dawn of the third age of mankind...ten years after the Earth-Minbari war. The Babylon Project was a dream given form. Its goal: to prevent another war, by creating a place where humans and aliens could work out their differences peacefully. It's a port of call, home away from home, for diplomats, hustlers, entrepreneurs, and wanderers. Humans and aliens, wrapped in two million, five hundred thousand tons of spinning metal...all alone in the night. It can be a dangerous place, but it's our last, best hope for peace. This is the story of the last of the Babylon stations. The year is 2259. The name of the place is...**BABYLON 5.**"

Dear BABYLON 5:

Are we going to see Walter Koenig's character in the comics? I hope so. Just to get him out of the STAR TREK role.

So far, your "Shadows Past and Present" miniseries [issues #5-8] is the best you have done. I hope you have another miniseries as good as this.

MIKE W. MANN  
315 LOCUST ST.  
COLUMBIA, PA 17512

No doubt we will. DeHaas and Ridgway, the team that produced your favorite issues, will return next month for a one-shot, and if all goes well, we'll have J. Michael Straczynski here to write a few issues after that. And you can't get much better than that!

As for Mr. Bester/Walter Koenig, yes, we expect him to show up in these pages now and then. After all, he's an important Psi Corps character — and you know how dangerous it is to ignore Psi Corps...

Dear Guys:

Just got through the end of "Shadows Past and Present" [issue #8, "Silent Enemies"]. Nice story. Liked the art. But it sure brings up a LOT of questions!

Like...what does this mean for Talia Winters? Not long ago, we discovered she was helping rogue telepaths via an underground railroad — then, suddenly, this juicy bit of her history pops up?! And what about Garibaldi? Seems he knows more than he's admitting. And Sheridan, too??? I'm confused! And VERY CURIOUS!

When do we find out more?

LYN WILLIAMS  
GUILFORD, CT

Sorry to be so infuriating, but questions are our game. Answers... aren't. At least, not all of them. Not yet.

Good day:

BABYLON 5 is an excellent television series, and the comic has been equally interesting.

I find it particularly remarkable that the comic is being kept part of the official continuity of the series. This avoids the "we-can't-change-anything" syndrome that is common with television tie-ins; it usually causes a feeling of futility, as every story has to reset the universe back to Square One to avoid stepping on the TV show's toes. Here, the comic can reveal facts that later have

televised repercussions. I hope you don't terminate such an interesting experiment before its first birthday.

I'm also eagerly awaiting the David Gerrold/Rebecca Guay storyline that starts in #9 ["Duet for Human and Narn in C Sharp"]; I loved Guay's artwork in BLACK ORCHID, and Gerrold is a thorough professional who will undoubtedly produce a fine story. Here's hoping J. Michael Straczynski gets to write a story arc!

I hope the title sticks around; 30 to 40 issues should be just about enough...

ANDREW M. KUCHLING  
2096 CLAREMONT, APT. 25  
MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC  
H3Z 2P8

Sounds like a decent plan... although 40 issues wouldn't even take us into the fifth year of the TV show. And that would be a shame, since it means the comic book series would end before we got to J. Michael Straczynski's grand finale! Let's hope the comic book series adds a lot more to the scheme before it's done.

And now that David and Rebecca's little story duet is finished up, any comments? Hope you enjoyed the ride — let us know.

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Dear Laura:

When DC announced its **BABYLON 5** title, I was probably more enthusiastic and more apprehensive than the average comic-book reader, knowing what you'd have to deal with to produce it. Licensed books have special problems, and I think readers have higher expectations for them than they do for any other kind of comic book. The first eight issues of the title have met some of these expectations some of the time.

I was grateful, most of all, that the first storyline continued Sinclair's part of the saga. "Irritated" doesn't begin to describe how I felt about the character's disappearance from the television series, and judging from the letters you've run, other readers also miss the commander and are looking to this book to cover what the show will not.

Now some general criticism. I can't comment fairly on plot points as I haven't reread these issues lately, but obviously it was good to have some resolution of events left hanging at the end of the first season. The artwork, coloring, and lettering for the first four issues was on the maddy side, and the weakest and most static cover was perhaps the first one — unfortunate when you're trying to build an audience. Carlos Garzon's likenesses in #3 were frequently successful, even frighteningly accurate. The opening pages of issue #5 (John Ridgway's artwork) were possibly the best-looking yet — the cinematic layout, sharper inking, and good likenesses on figures with weight all reminded me of the work of the great Curt Swan. (My favorite page so far: the last page of

#1, by Netzer and Leigh, which should be a poster.) For adaptations of this kind, a realistic style employed by artists who know anatomy is crucial. A look at any **STAR TREK** letter column suggests that readers are chiefly concerned that their favorite characters look like the actors who portray them, and that their dialogue is consistent with what they have heard on the show. Tim DeHaas is especially good with dialogue; hearing the words spoken by the principal players was satisfyingly easy.

Although I enjoy comparing notes with other readers (especially with respect to Commander Sinclair), I would welcome more behind-the-scenes features. I don't see nearly enough coverage of **Babylon 5** in other publications to suit me. Possible topics: What are the stages of a script's development? At what point does the prop master get involved, and what are his resources? How does the casting director make his decisions? (And was Richard Chaves, briefly seen in a first-season episode, ever considered for the role of Sinclair?) What scenes or scripts have been modified because of the actors' input? Has the sound engineer encountered any unusual problems? How does Christopher Franke score or track an episode? I'm particularly interested in the functions generally ignored by other magazines. Could you create a page of TV Guide-style mini-interviews with series regulars and guest stars?

I sincerely hope this title continues. There aren't enough science-fiction comic books today, and

in spite of a reported overall dropoff in comic-book sales, this is the best time to develop this portion of the market. A good **BABYLON 5** comic book can only help such an effort.

ARLENE LO

Thanks, Arlene, for the suggestions... and for revealing your secret identity! Yes, it's true. Arlene Lo is actually the (not so) mild-mannered secret identity of our own "Proofreader of Heroes" here at DC Comics. By day, she's able to read large numbers of comics in a single sitting, catching tiny errors with only a glance. But by night, her real identity emerges... when she chooses and reads only the comics she likes best.

Given that kind of background, it feels like a huge compliment that Arlene has become so interested in **BABYLON 5** comics. In fact, **BABYLON 5** has a quite a large, devoted following here in the home office, but the praise is especially gratifying coming from someone who we know reads a LOT of comics.

Now for some specifics. Your suggestions for Behind-the-Scenes features were terrific — we'll see if we can get a few topics under way. It was interesting to hear your art preferences, although previous letters have made it clear public opinion is all over the place on that issue. And how curious that you mention your interest in Sinclair, 'cause there's a good chance we'll find out more about him in the future. (And, no, we didn't clue Arlene in on that one before she wrote her letter!)

#### NEXT UP: **THE PSI CORPS AND YOU!**

Earth's most secret agency is explained, examined, and demystified for the average **Babylon 5** resident. Writer Tim DeHaas and artist John Ridgway return for this special one-shot presentation by... Psi Corps!

COVER ART: REBECCA GUAY AND RICK BRYANT.